



DoD and VA Initiatives

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Disability Evaluation System (DES)

- DoD and the VA are working jointly to improve the DES
 - as directed by the DoD/VA Senior Oversight Committee
- Pilot project – one examination, two purposes
 - National Capital Area
 - one physical examination performed by the VA
 - DoD to reimburse a share of VA's cost
 - DoD determining fitness for duty
 - fit/unfit
 - AKA Continuation of Military Service (COMS)
 - VA determining rating of disability
 - Veterans Affairs Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD)



**very much a
work in progress**

Temporary Disability Retired List (TDRL) Examinations

- Found unfit for military duty
- Disability is unstable or not of a permanent nature
- Periodic medical examination NLT every 18 months
- May be extended up to 5 years on TDRL
 - until returned to duty or
 - placed Permanent Disability Retired List (PDRL)
- DEERS shows “retired” for both TDRL and PDRL
- Supplemental Health Care Program (SHCP) funds
 - may be used to purchase TDRL exams
 - no out-of-pocket expense to member
 - may not be used to purchase treatment indicated by TDRL exam



VA support for DoD's TDRL Examinations

23 Nov 2008 VA memo to VA Network Directors

- VA facilities will cease performing TDRL exams solely for the purpose of determination of fitness for duty

24 Apr 2009 VA clarifying guidance

- VA will continue to provide clinical exams and ancillary services to military beneficiaries and be reimbursed
 - as a TRICARE Network provider or
 - through local sharing agreements
- VA shall not make a recommendation about fitness
- DoD may choose use the medical information obtained for TDRL exam purposes



DoD/VA MOA

TBI, SCI, Blind Rehab, & Polytrauma

- adds polytrauma to long-standing MOA
- Medical Management at onset of VA treatment
 - Responsible MTF
 - identify VA facility, request VA acceptance, request preauthorization, coordinate transfer
 - Treating VA facility
 - assist selection of VA facility, review case for acceptance, assist preauthorization request, assist transfer
 - TRICARE Management Activity (TMA)
 - approval authority for all services, supplies, equipment
 - issue determination (or request more information) within 2 business days of receipt of request for preauthorization
 - send determination to MCSC to place authorization on file for claims payment



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MOA Medical Management

- Preauthorization expiration
 - inpatient NLT 21 days from admission
 - outpatient NLT 30 days from first outpatient visit
- Continued treatment authorization
 - treating VA submit request to TMA NLT 5 days before expiration of current authorization
 - TMA issue determination (or request more information) within 2 business days
 - inpatient authorization not to exceed 90 days
 - outpatient authorization not to exceed 90 days



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Other MOA Provisions

- Joint case management
 - responsible MTF, treating VAMC, TMA
- Home supplies and durable medical equipment
 - require separate authorization
 - particular attention if not routinely covered under the TRICARE Uniform Benefit
- Disability Evaluation System (DES)
 - VA facility will provide information to MTF for board
 - may participate in DoD/VA initiatives for DES
- Inpatient and outpatient TBI evaluations covered
- Care provided under MOA provisions
 - TRICARE Network agreement does not apply



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**Together we can serve our
country's sons and daughters
who have defended our
nation!**

